292

177

On Sundays she dons her special finery—

292

the terrible danger with which it threatened them hit deeply into the minds of the people ; in such old customs as the "Schwedenritt" the memory of this lives on.

With the extinction of the Tyrolese branch of the ruling house, Tyrol lost its political eminence in 1665.

At the turn of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, after nearly a hundred and fifty years of peace, it became one of the battlefields of the War of the Spanish Succession. At first Prince Eugene was successful in the south of the country, but later it was occupied by the Bavarians. The Tyrolese rising, the merciless battle at the Pontlatz Bridge in the depths of the Upper Inn Valley, and the Battle of Lueg below the Brenner Pass, put an end to the "Bavarian Rowdies" and showed for the first time the almost unconquerable strength of a mountain people when it allies itself with the powerful natural defences of its native soil.

Peace returned to the Provinces and once again a great Empress left her mark on the capital. Maria Theresia had come to Innsbruck to celebrate the marriage of her son Leopold ; a triumphal arch was to commemorate the event. Five weeks later the beloved husband of the Empress died in the Hofburg at Innsbruck. Thus it came about that, to remind one of the inconstancy of fate, the arch thrown on the side through which the bridal pair entered the city, scenes of joy and of life. On the other, which faces the town, are scenes of mourning illustrating the transitory nature of human fortune. To this day it is called the Arch of Triumph. The triumph of life over death, or of death over life?

The Napoleonic Wars brought to Tyrol its heroic epoch which culminated in the year 1809. Its tragedy was that Tyrol was important enough to be overrun, but not of sufficient importance

a shot-silk apron, and a kerchief over the short laced bodice; from the small, hard hat with gold braid and tassels hang long satin or velvet ribbons down her back; in her hair is a silver pin and she wears an old fashioned necklace of garnets. In winter-time she wears in addition a black shawl with long fringes. The children are movingly solemn duplications of their elders.

Andreas Hofer.

OF MOUNTAINS, TREES, MOUNTAIN PASTURES AND ANIMALS. Eagle and ibex, chamois and marmot, black-cock and capercailzie are all symbolic of the mountains, as are also almrausch and edelweiss, gentian and auricula, nigritella and artemesia. But as is often the case with symbols, the more frequently they are employed in old coats-of-arms and modern posters, praised in word and song, displayed stuffed, pressed and dried in museums, or grown and cultivated in gardens, the more legendary they become.

136 137

Many of them have long ceased to be representative. The eagle and the ibex have been forced by the greed of man to flee to sheltering heights, the edelweiss and artemesia to withdraw to inaccessible crags. Other alpine fauna are rarely seen by the tourist, since they avoid the times and places of his choice. Equally invisible are the mountain flowers which cannot flee from man.

137

292

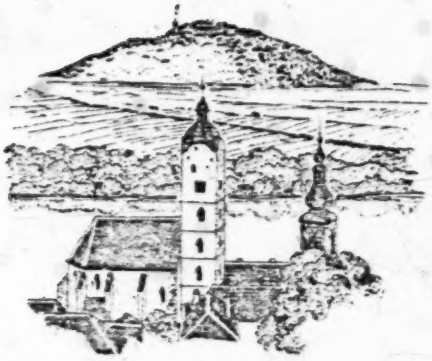
• 292

7: Marboe U-3 (no date) 1948 EK1 Austria EK1

292

[-313-]

000



Gottweig Monastery; view from Stein-on-the-Danube.

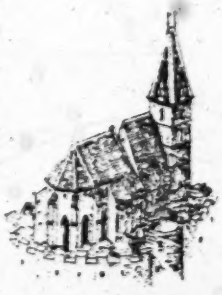
red top-boots and white leather accoutrements, you would not have been surprised.

When the happy crowd went on to Dürnstein, was it still an excursion? Was not it rather a dipping into the romance of the past? "At the Sign of the Singer Blondel" or "At the Sign of King Richard the Lion Hearted" are names of inns there. And when you lay up above on the remains of a castle wall, the dark water streaming past below and the dark forests gleaming on the slopes of the mountains, you had for the first time the feeling of getting to know the spirit of a countryside and of being close to all the fateful events it had seen.

361 792 Melk is throned in majesty. From a massive parapet of stone rise Prandtauer's glorious towers. The Monastery is vast and overpowering. It was the birthplace of law and order in the Danube district, as of Austrian culture and literature. The treasures which the magnificent library offers to the mind can hardly be grasped by the eye.

292 Everyone should at least once have seen the colourful silk dresses and shimmering gold bonnets of the women from the Wachau district. How lovely when the evening light falls on them as it did that time in Gottweig, and you hear the moving rhythm of the song: "So home we go in the full moon's light."

133 241 THE WALDVIERTEL. Eggenburg lies almost on the dividing-line between vineyards and forests, gently warmed by virtue of the declining and widening slopes. But high above, around the Nebelstein, the wind blows chill and raw. There the oats have to be mown by mitten-covered hands. As the Ottenschlag saying has it:—"Three-quarters of the year winter, one quarter cold." In places there are enormous blocks of stone which have carefully to be avoided by the plough. Vast forests of pine give the countryside a dark and rugged hue, relieved only by



Weissenkirchen.

133 Austrian alpine foothills, to which it by its character belongs. Sandwiched in between, on the upper Pinka, one finds a living witness to Burgenland history in the Magyar enclave of Oberwart.

175 563 The Magyars came to Pannonia about 896 A.D. In 907 A.D. they destroyed the Bavarian armies near Pressburg, thus putting an end to the Frankish-Bavarian Pannonian Mark. For half a century hordes of Hungarian horsemen overran Europe, spreading out even to France and Italy. The Battle of Lechfeld in 955 A.D. put an end to this, and the Magyars then tried to secure themselves a permanent home in the Danube Basin. Their "Westwall" was the impenetrable forests of southern Burgenland, and, further northwards, the swamps of Rabnitz. The valleys in the forest belt were defended by barricades and troops.

[292]

Oberwart.

In one of these "Warte" or outposts, which is today the Hungarian-speaking village of Oberwart, the Magyar garrison maintained itself for 1000 years. Here the Magyar origin of the population is still evident in their speech and picturesque dress.

133 529 There are traces of almost every period of Burgenland history in the district of Oberwart. The most valuable heritage is that left by the extinct volcanoes at Tatzmannsdorf, a healing centre for heart complaints and feminine ailments—an Austrian version of Franzensbad.

135 Geologists will find much to interest them in these parts. The brown-coal mines of Tauchen, the antimony and sulphur-stone deposits at Schlaining, the iron ore which was mined even in Celtic-Illyrian times at Eisenzicken